(*f*) if so, when they were received and what action has been taken on them?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) About 166 acres.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) in view of the answer to part (*e*), the question does not arise.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: In answer to part (*a*) of the question, may I know whether that answer was given after enquiry from the subordinate offices?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: Yes, Sir.

Water tax levied by the Alleppey Municipality.

70. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have permitted the Alleppey Municipality to realise water tax from the inhabitants of the town;

(*b*) if so, what is the rate of water tax;

(*c*) whether it is equal to the house tax;

(*d*) whether water pipe connection is given to houses in the town;

(*e*) how long it is since the water tax has been realised; and

(*f*) whether they are aware that water tax is being levied without supplying water to the houses in the town?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 3 per cent. of the annual rental value.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Nearly 5 years.

(*f*) Yes.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: May I know why the Government are allowing the realisation of tax without granting a corresponding benefit to the people?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: Water tax is mainly levied for maintenance of the supply system and it is not possible to make any discrimination between one man and another in a Municipality. Further, so far as domestic consumption is concerned the people who desire to have that privilege of taps in their houses will have to pay excess charges and that is not confined to the inhabitants of Alleppey who have water connections to their houses. The tax now levied relates to maintenance and therefore it is a general tax levied by the Alleppey Municipality.

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Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: Am I to understand that even if a person do not make use of the water he is also to pay water tax?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: The whole municipality is charged and not particular individuals in a municipality. It is supposed that the Alleppey Municipality is to provide the necessary funds.

Foot bridges in Pulinkunoo in Ambalapuzha.

71. *Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have given contract for the reconstruction or construction of certain foot-bridges in Pulinkunnoo in Ambalapuzha;

(*b*) if so, when the contract was given and for whom it was given;

(*c*) whether the first contractor has gone away or gone back from the contract;

(*d*) whether one Mr. T. T. Thomas has been given the contract subsequently, and if so when;

(*e*) whether any timber and cement were supplied to that contractor for that work;

(*f*) whether they have received any representations from the people of the locality that the Contractor has not built the Maliampurakkal bridge in Pulinkunnoo and that the people are experiencing difficulty by the demolition of the old bridge and non-construction of the new;

(*g*) if so, when was it received and what action has been taken on it; and

(*h*) whether they have enquired whether the contractor has the articles supplied by Government with him now?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 10-12-1942. Mr. P. O. Hussan Kutty, P. W. D. Contractor, Alleppey.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) One Mr. T. T. Antony was given the contract subsequently on 28-1-1944.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) 8-9-1944. The revised estimate for the work is under preparation.

(*h*) Yes.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: May I know why the preparation of the estimates has been delayed from 8-9-1944 after knowing that the bridge has been demolished from 28-1-1944?

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